

means is that the bias of the describer and that of the person described are in fact the same

In going to Russia, they were well aware, before they started, how necessary it was to be on guard against the bias that, as they point out, everyone, in fact, takes with him, on going to any foreign land As he put it in one of the lectures he gave, on return,

" Going with an open mind is impossible
Irresistibly I found
that I was looking to see what British ideas, or
ideas of mine,
they had incorporated When I noted one such, I
mentally
ticked it off and said it was good "

Whereas, he went on, Russia in fact represents "a new civilisation, which our classes and categories and terms don't fit"

To have seen the Webbs in Russia most of us, with our irrelevant sense of the humorous, would have given a good deal. They arrived to find Leningrad, somewhat inappropriately, en fete, for a reception to the King of the Hedjaz. They were, like any other visitors, largely "taken about" their journeys planned for them, their comfort attended to, so far as the circumstances made it possible. They found some minor aspects of life surprising enough thus Mrs Webb got into the papers with a reproof to the young female Communists for the use of lip-stick, just about the time when the young males of the same order were solemnly deciding that the wearing of a collar was not incompatible with the true faith. On the whole, however, they were, undoubtedly, thrilled. That is the note in their impressions that no one

who has received any of them can possibly miss
But, after
delivering a few lectures, they have now
retired to write
Until their book appears, to attempt to set out
in any detail
what they think about Russia is, of course
presumptuous
and foolish In what they have said and
written since their
return, they have, however, drawn an
outline both of
their approach and of their conclusions